

Meeting:	NuLeAF Steering Group, 29 October 2008
Agenda Item:	5
Subject:	Low Level Waste Strategy Development
Author:	Fred Barker
Purpose:	To report on developments

Introduction

This report covers:

- Key points from the meeting of the NDA's LLW Strategy Group meeting on 14-15 August;
- Key points from the meeting of the LLW Officer Working Group on 18 September.

Recommendation

That the Steering Group notes the progress that is being made.

Meeting of the NDA's LLW Strategy Group (14-15 August)

Annex 1 is a note of the key points that arose at the last meeting of the NDA's LLW Strategy Group.

The SG's attention is drawn to the setting up of a sub-group on 'stakeholder relations and risk communication'. The ED has accepted an invitation from the NDA to chair this sub-group. The first meeting is on 15 October. A verbal update will be provided at the SG meeting.

Meeting of the LLW Officer Working Group (18 September)

The group considered the following:

- A verbal update on developments at specific sites
- Progress with radioactive waste management coverage in Minerals and Waste Development Frameworks
- The outcome of the NDA LLW Strategy Group on 14-15 August
- The outcome of a meeting with Government on the possibility of community benefits for non-GDF radioactive waste management facilities

The following points are drawn to the SG's attention:

1. The last meeting of the SG agreed that case studies about the development or potential development of LLW facilities at specific sites should be prepared for publication on the NuLeAF website. The purpose of the case studies is to promote good practices. The first case study – looking at the potential development of a VLLW disposal facility on the Springfields site – has been drafted. Case studies are also being prepared on the LLWR near Drigg.
2. The SG has encouraged waste planning authorities to address radioactive waste developments when preparing or revising Minerals and Waste Development Frameworks ([Briefing for Local Authority Planners](#)). The LLW Officer Group considered an extract from Suffolk CC's waste issues and options paper which was subject to consultation. The group considered this to be a good example of how radioactive waste should be addressed and recommended that it should provide the subject for a NuLeAF case study.
3. The ED and an officer from Sedgemoor DC had met with Government officials to explore the possibility of establishing community funds for non-GDF radioactive waste management developments. The meeting discussed the legal powers that might be available and potential criteria for when funds might be established. The Government's preference was for the S106 mechanism to be used when specific projects were under consideration. Further consideration needs to be given to the potential role of local government's 'well-being' powers in utilising any funds that might be made available, and whether it would be possible to specify criteria which could be used to identify which types of development could be subject to such Funds. The secretariat is currently researching the use of S106 and well-being powers to inform this further consideration. It is also monitoring the

position at Dounreay where there is a proposal for a Community Fund linked to development of a LLW disposal facility.

4. Finally, the SG should note that strategic objectives relating to (a) LLW strategy and (b) the establishment of Community Funds are proposed in the paper for AGM agenda item 5.

Annex 1: Key Points from the meeting of the NDA's LLW Strategy Group (14-15 August)

1 The NDA LLW team has been focussing on:

- Consolidating baseline information about LLW management at NDA sites (waste inventory, assets, infrastructure, and disposal routes)
- Identifying potential opportunities for shared use of, for example, supercompactors, incinerators and metal recycling facilities
- Developing a service for segregating wastes
- Reviewing the business case for a LLW disposal facility at Hinkley Point
- Reviewing potential arisings of LLW from new build (to inform sensitivity testing of inventory increases)

2 Specific proposals for using facilities at one site for managing LLW from other sites would have to go through the following steps:

- Discussion with stakeholders (eg with the LSG)
- Development of a business case
- Regulatory review
- Inclusion in the NDA's LLW Management Plan

3 The key target dates for future work are:

24 October 08	Draft Strategic Review Document
19 February 09	Draft LLW Management Plan
31 March 09	Draft LLW Strategy
31 December 09	Final LLW Strategy

4 Future meetings of the LSG are scheduled for 13-14 November and 26-27 February. The next meeting will consider the draft Strategic Review Document.

5 The meeting agreed to set up two sub-groups:

- At NuLeAF's suggestion, a sub-group on Stakeholder Relations and Risk Communication. The aim is to produce some form of good practice guidance for use by SLCs and the supply chain, focussing on the 'how' of communicating risk and building stakeholder confidence. The group is likely to review the literature, risk communication guidelines produced by other organisations (eg EA, FSA) and case studies. Membership of the group is likely to include the NDA, NuLeAF, the EA, SLCs and HPA.
- A sub-group on the 'UK baseline', to review the baseline information compiled by NDA and standardise approaches to recording and updating the information.